

In the Claims

Rewrite the claims as follows:

77. (currently amended) An isolated monoclonal antibody or a fragment thereof capable of binding only to native disease-specific prion protein (PrP^{Sc}) and not to native normal prion protein (PrP^C) in an antigen-antibody complex.

78. (currently amended) An isolated monoclonal antibody according to claim 77 capable of recognizing at least one of 3 distinct arrays on the prion protein with amino acid sequences according to SEQ ID NOs: 7, 8 and 9.

79. (cancelled)

80. (currently amended) An isolated monoclonal antibody according to claim 77 ~~or 79~~ wherein the prion protein is soluble.

81. (currently amended) An isolated monoclonal antibody according to claim 77 ~~or 79~~ wherein the prion protein is insoluble.

82. (currently amended) An isolated monoclonal antibody according to claim 77 ~~or 79~~ wherein the prion protein is a recombinant prion protein.

83. (currently amended) An isolated monoclonal antibody according to claim 77 ~~or 79~~ wherein the prion protein is reduced.

84. (currently amended) An isolated monoclonal antibody according to claim 77 ~~or 79~~ wherein the prion protein is oxidized.

85. (currently amended) An isolated monoclonal antibody which comprises an epitope binding fragment of anyone of the monoclonal antibodies according to claim 78 ~~or 79~~: said antibody specifically binding to native PrP^{Sc} without binding to native PrP^C.

86. (currently amended) An isolated monoclonal antibody according to claim 77 ~~or 79~~ coupled to other molecules especially fragments of other antibodies, enzymes or organic chemical compounds.

87. (cancelled)

88. (currently amended) A hybridoma cell line capable of producing an isolated monoclonal antibody according to claim 77.

89. (cancelled)

90. (currently amended) A hybridoma cell line according to claim 88 deposited under DSM ACC2298 capable of producing an isolated monoclonal antibody which recognizes 3 distinct arrays on the prion protein with amino acid sequences according to SEQ ID NOs: 7, 8 and 9 said antibody specifically binding to native PrP^{Sc} without binding to native PrP^C.

91. (cancelled)

92. (cancelled)

93. (currently amended) An isolated monoclonal antibody produced by a hybridoma cell line according to claim 90.

94. (cancelled)

95. (cancelled)

96. (cancelled)

97. (cancelled)

98. (cancelled)

99. (cancelled)

100. (cancelled)

101. (cancelled)

102. (cancelled)

103. (cancelled)

104. (cancelled)

105. (cancelled)

106. (cancelled)

107. (cancelled)

108. (currently amended) A test kit for the diagnosis of prion diseases comprising one or more isolated monoclonal antibodies according to claims 77 ~~or 79~~, purified recombinant bovine PrP protein in reduced or oxidized form or in form of a mixture thereof, ~~according to claim 101~~, nitrocellulose sheets, microtiter plates coated or covalently linked with isolated monoclonal antibodies according to claims 77 ~~or 79~~, an antibody that is coupled with an enzyme and its substrate for a detection reaction, proteinase K, blocking buffer, homogenisation buffer and a detailed description of how to perform the test.

109. (currently amended) A test kit according to claim 108 comprising a nitrocellulose membrane in the dipstick format coated with an isolated monoclonal antibody according to claims 77 ~~or 79~~, a dilution buffer, a solution containing an isolated monoclonal antibody according to claims 77 ~~or 79~~, coupled to colloids evoking a colouring reaction when present in an antigen-antibody complex, and a detailed description of how to perform the test.

110. (cancelled)

111. (cancelled)

112. (cancelled)

113. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation for the therapy and prevention of prion diseases comprising an isolated monoclonal antibody or fragments thereof according to claims 77 ~~or 79~~ and a pharmaceutical carrier said antibody specifically binding to native PrP^{Sc} without binding to native PrP^C.

114. (cancelled)

115. (cancelled)

116. (cancelled)

117. (cancelled)